

In the Claims

Claims 1 to 13 are pending in the application

Of the above claims 11 to 13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 to 10 are rejected.

Claims 1 to 13 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A lifting device comprising:
an elongate shaft member extending in a longitudinal direction between
respective first and second ends;
a hook member supported on the first end of the shaft member, the hook
member comprising only a flat hook which is being substantially straight along a hook axis
lying substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shaft member; and
a gripping member supported on the shaft member adjacent the second end
thereof for being gripped in a hand of a person.
2. (original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member and
the hook member are integrally formed of a single rod of material which has been deformed.
3. (original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member is
circular in cross section at the first end thereof.
4. (original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member is
approximately two feet in length.
5. (original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member and
the hook member have a similar cross sectional dimension which is substantially less than 1/2
inch.
6. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the
gripping member comprises a handle mounted on the shaft member transversely to the
longitudinal direction of the shaft member and the hook axis, the gripping member being fixed
in orientation relative to the shaft member and the hook member.
7. (cancelled)
8. (original) The device according to Claim 6 wherein the handle is injection
molded about the second end of the shaft member.

9. (original) The device according to Claim 8 wherein the second end of the shaft member is deformed before the handle is injection molded thereabout.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (new) A lifting device comprising:

an elongate shaft member extending in a longitudinal direction between respective first and second ends;

a hook member supported on the first end of the shaft member, the hook member being substantially wholly straight along a hook axis lying substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shaft member; and

a gripping member supported on the shaft member adjacent the second end thereof for being gripped in a hand of a person.

15. (new) The device according to Claim 14 wherein the shaft member and the hook member are integrally formed of a single rod of material which has been deformed.

16. (new) The device according to Claim 14 wherein the shaft member is circular in cross section at the first end thereof.

17. (new) The device according to Claim 14 wherein the shaft member is approximately two feet in length.

18. (new) The device according to Claim 14 wherein the shaft member and the hook member have a similar cross sectional dimension which is substantially less than 1/2 inch.

19. (new) The device according to Claim 14 wherein the gripping member comprises a handle mounted on the shaft member transversely to the longitudinal direction of

the shaft member and the hook axis, the gripping member being fixed in orientation relative to the shaft member and the hook member.

20. (new) A lifting device comprising:

an elongate shaft member extending in a longitudinal direction between respective first and second ends;

a hook member supported on the first end of the shaft member, the hook member being flat surfaced and wholly extending substantially straight along a hook axis between the shaft member and a tip of the hook member, the hook axis lying substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shaft member; and

a gripping member supported on the shaft member adjacent the second end thereof for being gripped in a hand of a person.

21. (new) The device according to Claim 20 wherein the shaft member and the hook member are integrally formed of a single rod of material which has been deformed.

22. (new) The device according to Claim 20 wherein the shaft member is circular in cross section at the first end thereof.

23. (new) The device according to Claim 20 wherein the shaft member is approximately two feet in length.

24. (new) The device according to Claim 20 wherein the shaft member and the hook member have a similar cross sectional dimension which is substantially less than 1/2 inch.

25. (new) The device according to Claim 20 wherein the gripping member comprises a handle mounted on the shaft member transversely to the longitudinal direction of the shaft member and the hook axis, the gripping member being in fixed orientation relative to the shaft member and the hook member.